Dear Dr Whitbread,

Thank you for your letter of 20 May regarding the EU referendum and the consequences for wildlife. I appreciate your concern that environmental issues are not receiving the level of debate or discussion as other issues such as immigration, security and economy.

I share your keen interest in the protection of our environment and wildlife. Since being elected to Parliament, I have set up and chair the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bees. I recently chaired a debate in Westminster on neonicotinoids.

I welcome your views on the impact of the EU Referendum on the local environment and wildlife. However, I'm afraid I am unable to comment on what the impact of a vote to remain or leave may be on environmental issues. I have found the EU Referendum Hub on Parliament's website a source of good of information: www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/eu-referendum

The hub has been produced by the House of Commons Library and includes independent and impartial analysis of key policy areas, including the environment in the event of the electorate voting to remain or leave the EU. You may also be interested to read their recently published Briefing Paper "EU Referendum: Impact on UK Agriculture Policy" which is also on this site.

Whether the United Kingdom should remain in or leave the European Union is a huge decision for this country and I welcome that this decision is being made by the British people as a whole. For my part, I am organising, chairing and promoting eight debates in June across the constituency which, I hope, will allow both sides of this argument the opportunity to put their case to their community. These debates are being held in Battle, Bexhill, Heathfield,
Herstmonceux, Peasmarsh, Pevensey, Sedlescombe and Ticehurst. I do hope that you will come along and have your say. More details can be found on the enclosed leaflet which was delivered to over 43,000 households in my constituency.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Merriman MP
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle